CLAIMS

1. A process which comprises expressing from a recombinant DNA vector in a suitable host organism a polypeptide incorporating one or more antigenic determinants capable of raising HCMV-neutralising antibodies in humans, said determinant or determinants corresponding to a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII F fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 1378 and 4095 bases from the F/D boundary and/or a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII L fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 228 and 2456 bases from the L/D boundary.

2. A process according to claim 1 in which said polypeptide is incorporated into a vaccine against HCMV in humans.

3. A recombinant virus vector containing DNA encoding a polypeptide incorporating one or more antigenic determinants capable of raising HCMV-neutralising antibodies in humans, said determinant or determinants corresponding to a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII F fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 1378 and 4095 bases from the F/D boundary and/or a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII L fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 228 and 2456 bases from the L/D boundary, said vector being capable of infecting a human subject and expressing said polypeptide in immunogenic form.

4. A vaccine against HCMV, incorporating a recombinant virus vector of claim 3.

5. A DNA isolate which encodes a polypeptide incorporating one or more antigenic determinants capable of raising HCMV-neutralising antibodies in humans, said determinant or determinants corresponding to a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII F fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 1378 and 4095 bases from the F/D boundary and/or a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII L fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 228 and 2456 bases from the L/D boundary.

6. A process which comprises synthesising a polypeptide incorporating one or more antigenic determinants capable of raising HCMV-neutralising antibodies in humans, said determinant or determinants corresponding to a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII F fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 1378 and 4095 bases from the F/D boundary and/or a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII L fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 228 and 2456 bases from the L/D boundary.

7. A method of preparing HCMV monospecific antiserum, which comprises immunising a host animal with a polypeptide prepared by a process of claim 1 or claim 6 or with a recombin-

ant virus vector of claim 3, and extracting from the host animal antiserum specific to said polypeptide.

8. A method which comprises immunising a host animal with a polypeptide prepared by a process of claim 1 or claim 6 or with a recombinant virus vector of claim 3, and preparing HCMV-specific monoclonal antibody from cells of the animal thus immunised.

9. A method of purifying HCMV-specific antibodies, which comprises contacting the antibodies with a polypeptide incorporating one or more antigenic determinants capable of raising HCMV-neutralising antibodies in humans, said determinant or determinants corresponding to a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII F fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 1378 and 4095 bases from the F/D boundary and/or a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII L fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 228 and 2456 bases from the L/D boundary, and separating bound antibody from said polypeptide.

10. A method of detecting HCMV-specific antibody in a clinical sample, which comprises contacting the sample with a polypeptide incorporating one or more antigenic determinants capable of raising HCMV-neutralising antibodies in humans, said determinant or determinants corresponding to a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII F fragment of

the HCMV genome lying between 1378 and 4095 bases from the F/D boundary and/or a portion of the protein encoded by DNA in the HindIII L fragment of the HCMV genome lying between 228 and 2456 bases from the L/D boundary, and detecting antibody that binds to said polypeptide.

11. A kit for carrying out the method of claim 10, said kit comprising said polypeptide in a form suitable for contacting with the clinical sample, and means for detecting HCMV-specific antibody that binds to said polypeptide.